

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6223

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CG, RW

SUBJECT: GOR SKEPTICAL ON PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE

REF: KIGALI 876

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS, I ASKED ACTING FONMIN RENZAHU THIS MORNING FOR CLARIFICATION OF JUNE 5 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STATEMENT ON SHABA AND "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" (REFTEL). I NOTED STATEMENT WAS SO EVEN-HANDED AS TO LEAVE US IN DOUBT EXACTLY WHERE GOR STOOD ON SUPER-POWER INTERVENTION, PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE, AND RELATIONS WITH WESTERN FRIENDS.

2. RENZAHU REPLIED THAT GOR BELIEVED EVERY AFRICAN COUNTRY SHOULD DECIDE FOR ITSELF HOW BEST TO INSURE ITS OWN NATIONAL SECURITY. AS FAR AS RWANDA WAS CONCERNED, IT COULD NOT ENVISAGE APPEALING FOR HELP OF FOREIGN TROOPS, AFRICAN OR OTHERWISE, BUT IT DESPERATELY NEEDED MATERIAL SUPPORT.
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SITUATION IN ZAIRE OR OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT BE QUITE DIFFERENT.

3. RWANDA ALSO SAW PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE, EITHER PAN-AFRICAN OR LINKED TO WESTERN EUROPEANS OR OTHERS: WHERE WOULD TROOPS BE BASED? WHAT WOULD BE NATIONAL COMPOSITION? WHO WOULD

COMMAND THESE FORCES? UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THEY INTERVENE?

4. HOWEVER, MUCH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN RWANDA'S VIEW WAS LIKELIHOOD THAT MANY AFRICAN NATIONS (NOTABLY RADICALS AND LEFT-LEANERS) WOULD BE LOATH TO JOIN IN SUCH ASDEFENSIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE LIKES OF GABON, ZAIRE, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL, ETC. INSTEAD THESE DISSENTERS WOULD LIKELY HASTEN TO FORM MILITARY ALLIANCES OF THEIR OWN, WHICH SOVIETS AND CUBANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO ARM AND SUPPORT. RESULT, THEREFORE, WOULD BE DIVISION OF AFRICA INTO TWO MILITARY BLOCS WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY PLAY OUT EAST-WEST IDEOLOGICAL RIVALRIES ON AFRICAN SOIL.

5. HENCE, SAID RENZAHO, RWANDA'S BELIEF THAT EACH COUNTRY SHOULD BE LEFT FREE TO WORK OUT ITS OWN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS A GROUP SHOULD PRESS BOTH EAST AND WEST TO COMPETE IN DEVELOPMENTAL FIELD, RATHER THAN MILITARY. HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT AMONG RWANDANS AS TO WHICH OF GREAT POWERS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT DESTABILIZING EVENTS.

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